Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A metadata production device, comprising:

a content reproduction portion that reproduces and outputs content;

~~an~~ a voice input portion operable to allow voice signals to be input;

a voice recognition portion that recognizes the voice signals that are input from the voice input portion;

a metadata generation portion that converts the voice signals ~~information~~ recognized by the voice recognition portion into metadata;

an identification information attaching portion that obtains identification information for identifying positions within the content from the content and attaches the identification information to the metadata; and

a dictionary containing information related to ~~that is limited in accordance with~~ the content;

~~whereby~~ wherein the identification information attaching portion is operable to associate the generated metadata ~~is associated~~ with positions ~~in~~ within the content; and

the voice recognition portion is operable to perform ~~performed~~ the recognition by using ~~in association with~~ the information contained in the dictionary, when recognizing the voice signals input from the voice input portion ~~with the voice recognition portion~~.

2.   (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
wherein ~~the voice signals are recognized~~ by the voice recognition portion is
operable to recognize the voice signals on a ~~word by word~~ word-by-word or phrase-by-
phrase basis using ~~in association with~~ the information contained in the dictionary.

4. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
further comprising an information processing portion including a keyboard, the
information processing portion being operable to change ~~wherein~~ the metadata can ~~be
corrected through the information processing portion by~~ by user input from the keyboard.

5. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
wherein time code information ~~that is attached to the content~~ is used as the
identification information.

6. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim1 ,
wherein at least one of content addresses, numbers and ~~or~~ frame numbers attached
to the content are used as the identification information.

7. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
wherein the content is still-picture content, and ~~the~~ address of the still-picture
content are used as the identification information.

8. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
wherein the content reproduction portion is configured by a content database;
the voice input portion supplies, to the voice recognition portion, voice signals of
~~entered~~ recognized keywords that have been converted into data with a clock signal that
is synchronized with a synchronization signal supplied from the content database;
the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize the keywords from the
voice ~~signal~~ signals ~~data~~ that ~~has~~ have been supplied ~~converted into data~~ by the voice
input portion; and

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the metadata generation portion is configured as a file processing portion that produces a metadata file by using, as the identification information, a time code that indicates a time position of an image signal that is included in the content, and ~~combining~~ combines the keywords that are output from the voice recognition portion with ~~that~~ the time code.

9. (Original) The metadata production device according to claim 8,

further comprising a recording portion that records the content that is supplied from the content database together with the metadata files as a content file.

10. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 9,

further comprising a content information file processing portion that generates ~~a~~ the control file controlling the relation between the metadata file and recording positions at which the content file is to be recorded;

wherein the control file is recorded in the recording portion together with the content file and the metadata file.

11. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1 ~~8~~,

further comprising a dictionary database containing multiple genre-dependent dictionaries, wherein the voice recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a the plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries.

12. (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1 ~~11~~,

wherein keywords related to the content can be supplied to the voice recognition portion as higher priority keywords; and

wherein the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize ~~those~~ the higher priority keywords ~~with higher priority~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing metadata, said method comprising:

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inputting voice signals ~~voice-inputting information~~ related to a given content using an input device while displaying the content on a monitor;

subjecting the input voice signal to voice recognition ~~with a voice recognition device~~ using a dictionary containing information related to ~~that is limited in accordance with~~ the content to obtain voice recognition information;

converting the voice-recognized information into metadata; and

attaching identification information, ~~provided to the content for~~ identifying positions in the content, to the metadata, thereby associating the generated metadata with the positions in the content.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) The method for producing metadata according to claim 13,

wherein time code information ~~that is attached to the content~~ is used as the identification information.

17.   (Currently Amended) The metadata production device according to claim 13,

wherein the content is still-picture content, and ~~the~~ addresses of the still-picture content are used as the identification information.

18.   (Currently Amended) A metadata search device, comprising:

a content database that reproduces and outputs content;

an voice input portion operable to allow voice signals to be input and operable to ~~that converts~~ convert voice signals of recognized ~~entered~~ kewords into data with a clock signal that is synchronized with a synchronization signal of the reproduced content;

a voice recognition portion that recognizes the keywords from the converted voice signal data that has been supplied ~~converted into data~~ by the voice input portion;

a file processing portion that produces a metadata file by combining the keywords output from the voice recognition portion with time codes that indicate a time position of an image signal that is included in the content;

a content information file processing portion that geterates a control file <u>for</u> controlling a relation between the metadata file and recording positions of the content file;

a recording portion that records the content file, the metadata file and the control file; and

a search portion that extracts a recording position corresponding to a keyword in the content file by specifying the metadata files in which an entered search keyword is included, and referencing the control file;

wherein the recording position of the content file is the recording position in the recording portion.

19.   (Original) The metadata search device according to claim 18,

wherein the control file that is output from the content information file processing portion is devised as a table that lists recording positions of content in the recording portion in accordance with a recording time of the content, and the recording position of the content can be searched from the time code.

20.   (Currently Amended) The metadata search device according to claim 18,

further comprising a dictionary database <u>containing multiple genre-dependent dictionaries,</u> and a keyword supply portion that supplies keywords<u>, including keywords having higher priorities,</u> related to the content into the voice recognition portion;

wherein the voice recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a the plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries, and the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize ~~those~~ <u>the</u> keywords with higher ~~priority~~ <u>priorities.</u>

21.   (Currently Amended) The metadata search device according to claim 18,

further comprising a dictionary database <u>containing multiple genre-dependent dictionaries</u>;

wherein the voice recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a̶ <u>the</u> plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries; and

wherein the search portion is configured to search by keywords that are chosen from a common dictionary used by the voice recognition portion.

22.   (New) The metadata production device according to claim 1,

wherein an ordinary attributive keyword having relation to the metadata is attached to the metadata.